

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants have added claims 13-19 which are the objected to claims 2, 4-7, 9, and 12 rewritten into independent form. Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paroff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,481,836) in view of Bode (U.S. Patent No. 6,196,668). Claims 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paroff et al. and Bode, and further in view of Erickson (U.S. Patent No. 5,367,328). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paroff et al. and Bode, and further in view of Doi (U.S. Patent No. 6,471,314).

Paroff et al. is related to an ink delivery system. The Examiner states that Paroff et al. disclose the invention except for the pressure supply relationships among the main tank and the first and second sub-tanks. The Examiner finds this feature in Bode. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, in view of the amendments to claims 1, 8, and 11. In particular, in the Bode device, ink is supplied to lower sub-tanks through dedicated ink supplying lines from higher sub-tanks. Bode neither teaches nor suggests “a common-use ink supplying line” and “supplying ink from the main tank to the second sub-tank at a second pressure at the common-use ink supplying line that is lower than the first pressure.” Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 11 to more clearly define this feature.

Drawings:

The drawings have been objected to. The Examiner states that the drawings must show the relationship between the main tank and first and second sub-tanks via the ink supplying line.

Applicants respectfully submit that the relationship between the main tank and sub-tanks is disclosed in Figs. 2 and 7. The first and second sub-tanks are disclosed in Figs. 5 and 6. Further, the relationship between main tank and sub-tank with reference to the drawings is explained in paragraphs [0056], [0086] and [0096] of the specification.

The Examiner also states that the nozzle groups must be shown in relation to the first and second sub-tanks. Applicants respectfully submit that nozzles in relation to the first and second sub-tanks are shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

In paragraph [0067] of the specification, it is described that “The print head 6 and the sub-tank 3 are connected by an ink supplying channel 5 equipped with a valve 4. In this embodiment, one print head 6 includes 6 nozzle groups. Accordingly, 6 sub-tanks 3a to 3f are connected to one print head 6 (See FIG. 2). Ink supply to each of the 6 nozzle groups can be stopped separately by closing each valve 4 properly.” “The print head 6”, “the sub-tank 3”, and “the nozzle opening 6o” recited in paragraph [0067] are all shown in Fig. 7.

The sub-tanks 3, the nozzle plates 2 and ink supplying channels 5 are shown in Fig. 6. The sub-tanks 3 in the sub-tank groups G1, G2 and G3 correspond to the first and second sub-tanks. In the nozzle plates 2, the openings of nozzles are arranged (See paragraph [0107]). The ink supplying channels 5 connects the sub-tank 3 and the nozzle plates 2.

Accordingly, nozzles in relation to the first and second sub-tanks are shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

The drawings are also objected for not including the following reference signs mentioned in the description:

Paragraph [0065] Fig. 6 Reference 210. Item 210 is shown in Figure 1. Applicants have amended the specification to more clearly note that rather than the paper feeding unit 210 being shown in Figure 5, the side of the paper feeding unit 210 corresponds to the upper right side in Figure 6.

Paragraph [0067] Fig. 6 Reference 6. Item 6 is shown in Figure 5. Applicants have amended paragraph [0067] to more clearly state that the sub-tanks 3a-3f are shown in Figure 2.

Paragraphs [0087], [0090], and [0097]- [0100]. Applicants have amended the specification in a manner thought to resolve the objection to these paragraphs and drawing references.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/684,809

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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